



Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Policing Team

Changes to the Local Police Area means this will be my last quarterly report before handing over to Sgt Roy Evans. The Amersham, Missenden and Chesham areas will be joined together whilst the Chalfonts will merge with Iver, Gerrards Cross and Taplow. I will be moving to High Wycombe to take up a new challenge there.

Neighbourhood Team Priorities

The top three priorities for the last quarter were chosen at the Chiltern & South Buckinghamshire Policing Issues Forum on 22nd November 2023. This steering group is made from members of the community and representatives across the area. Discussing results of the public survey, speaking to a cross-section of the community, we aim to understand what is most important to you, what you want improved, and consider how we can accomplish these aims with the help of the community and partner agencies.

You said: **Burglary is a concern**

We did: South Bucks LPA continues to be targeted in respect of residential burglary. We have seen a slight decrease in offences across High Wycombe and surrounding areas overall [-6%] but a significant increase in offences to the east, especially in Chalfonts, Missendens, Burnham and Iver areas [+17%]. Interestingly, we have seen offences reduce in Amersham and Gerrards Cross, which is where we have heavily targeted our tasking patrols. Geographically, the LPA is constantly vulnerable to cross-border offending due to the main arterial routes surrounding our borders. The LPA has the highest burglary offending rate in the force with 883 offences recorded, of these 719 specifically relate to dwellings.

We have initiated a number of operations to combat burglary this year, operation Grotto was our winter burglary campaign and we now have operation Guyet, which is focused on a pattern of cross border offending. We continue to suffer from offences where offenders utilise methods that attempt to counter forensic opportunities. We have seen a rapid rise and continuing series of first floor entry offences where cash and jewellery are stolen, this is an issue that a number of forces are suffering from. Despite the low detection rate we have seen some successes in terms of convictions this year which have led to several persons receiving varying terms of imprisonment.

QUARTER – Residential Burglary		Jan – Mar 2024	Sept – Dec 2023
Amersham		28	30
Chesham		22	7
The Missendens		8	19
Chalfonts		35	49
YEARLY	April 2023 – March 2024	April 2022 – March 2023	+ / -
Amersham	75	106	-29%
Chesham	41	38	+8%
The Missendens	40	20	+100%
Chalfonts	99	63	+57%



Working with surrounding forces, we have been concentrating NHP and Roads Policing resources on the M25 corridors to target burglars coming into our areas. This January, a joint forces operation resulted in: 121 people being arrested (12 in TVP), 71 incidents where drugs were found, 19 incidents where weapons were found and 92 vehicles were seized (13 in TVP) in total almost £50,000 of cash was seized from criminals. This February, we worked more locally with officers from Hertfordshire, Aylesbury, Roads Policing and the Rural Taskforce on our Greenbelt Operation. This resulted in: the arrests of 9 people, 3 people being reported, 4 stolen vehicles recovered, 5 vehicles seized, £25,000 of cash, and drugs recovered.

A stop check was conducted on Broken Gate Lane when officer's believed males were acting suspiciously in a vehicle. This led to suspected stolen items being recovered from vehicle. Male was arrested and later the home owner and owner of these items called in advising that they had been burgled.

Through diligent work from both uniformed officers and our priority crime team, three people were arrested and then charged with two armed robberies that took place in Amersham and Chesham Bois.

If you would like to see this year's crime prevention letter surrounding burglary, you can download it at: <https://www.csb-forum.org/operation-grotto-the-most-important-partner-we-can-work-with-is-you/>

It is important that you continue to look out for yourself and your neighbours. Are you a member of the Neighbourhood watch? If not we recommend you join. The NHW aims to make you be and feel safer within your community. As a member you can benefit from discounts on security devices and receive newsletters with expert crime prevention advice. Find out more at www.ourwatch.org

You said: **Drugs are a concern**

We did: County Lines is an example of the wider damage drugs can do to our communities. It is the term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, they do this by using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "Deal lines".



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County lines can often involve modern day slavery, due to gang members potentially exploiting children and vulnerable adults into moving and storing drugs and money. They will utilise coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to control individuals. It is a key contributor to drug problems within the community and the criminal activity involved will regularly have trickledown effect on the users of the county lines, as they will regularly resort to theft and other illegal methods to pay for the drugs. In addition, they may experience mental health issues and paranoia due to the intimidation and pressure from the gang members they buy or deal from. This also increases the likelihood of youths carrying weapons for protection.

This quarter we have supported our neighbourhoods by locating our staff at travel hubs, major town centres and have visited schools at the end of their day to look out for people who may be involved in such activities. Following concerns raised at The Bramblings and Park Place, we conducted visits to discuss issues with residents who may be being affected by drug activity.

Visits were conducted at our Hotels that may be being used in the exploitation of children, staff training was also carried out in regards to this. To work with hotel staff and work to tackle this issue, a number of hotels are signed up to Hotel watch. We will work with the council in conducting test purchases on hotels to see if their staff will allow grown up males to book in with young girls or boys.

With the rise of teenagers being targeted by drug dealers, a number of which are paedophiles targeting young females, we have been arranging home visits to discuss concerns with parents and young people to warn of the risks. We will provide additional support to parents and safeguard youths who find themselves involved in county drug lines.

In addition, we have been working with The Children's Society through raising awareness around the criminal exploitation of children through promotion of the #Lookcloser campaign.

The next time you hear someone say that drugs is a victimless crime tell, them think again!

You said: **Speeding is a concern**

We did: Speeding continues to be a community priority it was voted as one of the top 3 concerns by local members of the community at the last Community Forum. Following the Missenden community speed watch event last November where the benefits of Community Speedwatch were discussed, we built on the interest generated by running two taster sessions. These were situated at Martinsend Lane, Great Missenden. With the assistance of the established Prestwood and Great Missenden CSW group, we had a number of interested parties attend and experience what it is like being involved in the groups.



Anyone can set up their own group or look to join an established group. There are 1900



volunteers, with 1461 CSW approved sites. In the last 12 months 50,487 letters have been sent out to speeding drivers and over 1000 vehicles were reported to DVLA for no tax. A review of CSW data shows that just under 95% of vehicles captured do not reoffend.

If a driver continues to speed, or was caught significantly above the speed limit, then they will receive a visit from a Roads Policing officer and be required to watch a video about the effects of speeding.

If you are concerned about the speeds in your area and would be interested in doing your part to help, you can become a member of your local Speedwatch group or even start your own. Find out more at <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org>

The neighbourhood Team have been out conducting speed checks and enforcement.

- Checks on Weedon Hill in Hyde Heath resulted in 80 vehicles being logged all under 35mph.
- Checks at Browns Road resulted in 72 vehicles being logged and one vehicle being captured doing 36 mph.
- Checks on Earls Howe Road resulted in 72 vehicles being logged and all were under 35 mph.

Speed Cameras in Chiltern

Our Road Safety vans and fixed cameras provide enforcement and a visual deterrent across the area. Their aim is to help support you to reduce the speed of traffic, making the roads safer for all road users and reducing the risk of injury, collisions and casualties in your district.

Figures from the Road Safety Mobile and Speed Enforcement Team show the following:

Dec; 181 tickets from mobile enforcement & 63 tickets from fixed cameras.

Jan; 184 tickets from mobile enforcement & 0 tickets from fixed cameras.

Feb; 239 tickets from mobile enforcement & 89 tickets from fixed cameras.

Fraud

No Blame No Shame

The phrase 'fall for a scam' is often used, but you don't hear 'fall for a burglary'. This kind of language is akin to victim blaming. We need to change the language we use when talking to and about fraud victims, to remove the building stigmas and shame that may make individuals hesitant to speak up and report scam incidents to the police.

Deepfake Scams

As technology progresses, Fraudsters are looking at different ways of utilising A.I. to part you with your hard earned cash. Common themes include, videos of celebrities promoting how they have made successful investments. "Which?" Magazine send out e-mail alerts warnings of scams, you can sign up to free here:

[How to spot and avoid AI scams - Which?](#)

SCAM Prevention - Text message to Ofcom

Received a suspected scam text message? Normally a strange number saying "Mum Dad I have lost my phone please change my number". Additional texts may come over the next week and then the text asking for help with an urgent bill. Forward to Ofcom on 7726 (SPAM on older style key pads) and to ensure you report and assist to stop these scammers.



Rural Crime

For an update on rural crime please see the Winter/Spring newsletter. Visit www.csb-forum.org.

Offenders Brought to Justice

Offences from the 1st January 2024 (This does not include persons who are currently under investigation).

Amersham:

Person charged for assaulting a police officer.
Person charged for possession of an offensive weapon.
Person charged for business burglary.
Person charged for assaulting a police officer.
Person charged for rape.
Person charged for criminal damage.
Person charged for assault.
Person given conditional caution for assaulting police officer.
Three people charged with 2 robberies.
Person charged with GBH with intent.
Person charged with possession with intent to supply class A.
Person cautioned for criminal damage.
Two people given community resolutions for possession of cannabis.
Person given community resolution for offensive weapon.
Person given community resolution for public order.
Person given community resolution for assault.
Person given community resolution for public order.
Person cautioned for criminal damage.

Missendens:

Person given community resolution for criminal damage.
Person charged with coercive control.
Person given community resolution for public order.
Person given community resolution for assault.
Person given community resolution for criminal damage.

Chalfonts:

Person charged for assault.
Person given FPN for drugs.
Person charged with criminal damage.
Person charged with offensive weapon.
Person charged with public order.
Person charged for assault.
Person charged with criminal damage.

Local 'Have Your Say' events



Come and speak to a member of your local neighbourhood team and have your say.

03/04/2024

Come and speak to PCSO 7218 Lottie Stephens + PCSO Chris Hinkley-Ging
0900-1000 hrs - Tesco, London Road West, Amersham.
1045 -1200 hrs - Rowan Garden Centre, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles.
1300-1430 hrs - Hildreths Garden Centre, Wycombe Road, Prestwood.

08/05/2024

Come and speak to PCSO 8882 Jacquie Day + C9543 Emma Dyer
0900-1000 hrs – Amersham Library, Chiltern Lifestyle Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham.
1045 -1200 hrs – Missenden Railway Station, Station Approach, Missenden
1300-1430 hrs - Market Square, Chalfont St Peter.

05/06/2024

Come and speak to PCSO 9436 Kam Benwara + C9543 Emma Dyer
0900-1000 hrs - Tesco, London Road West, Amersham.
1045 -1200 hrs - Hildreths Garden Centre, Wycombe Road, Prestwood.
1300-1430 hrs - Market Square, Chalfont St Peter.

Locations and timings to be confirmed and will be advertised on the www.csb-forum.org. Please be advised that officers may be required operationally and these events could be cancelled at late notice.

Social media:

www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk 'TV Alerts' allow the subscriber to filter the subject matter which is of relevance to them, and only requires an email address to begin receiving local policing information.

Our Twitter feed and Facebook page will show you what the policing team are doing, will provide crime prevention information, witness appeals and "Good Result" stories.

To report crime online visit: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/>



[@tvp_southbucks](https://twitter.com/tvp_southbucks)



[TVP South Buckinghamshire](https://www.facebook.com/TVP.SouthBuckinghamshire)

Stay safe out there and keep those eyed peeled.

PS 3675 D Walsh